

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 HA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08  
/110 W

-----032409 180218Z /41

R 171709Z JAN 78  
FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9907  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMCONSUL QUEBEC  
AMCONSUL TORONTO

UNCLAS MONTREAL 0099

E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: PINT, CA  
SUBJECT: CANADIAN UNITY: SOME MONTREALERS' VIEWS

1. FEDERAL TASK FORCE ON UNITY HELD FIRST SESSION IN MONTREAL YESTERDAY, ATTENDED PRIMARILY BY PRO-FEDERALISTS. DESPITE WELL-PUBLICIZED INTENT TO BOYCOTT BY MOST SEPARATIST GROUPS, AT LEAST ONE, THE CONSEIL DES HOMMES D'AFFAIRES QUEBECOIS, MADE STRONG PITCH FOR INDEPENDENCE. THE CONSEIL REPRESENTS ABOUT 600 SMALL BUSINESSMEN. QUEBEC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, ON OTHER HAND, CALLED FOR "CONSIDERABLY RENEWED CANADIAN FEDERALISM." CHAMBER REPRESENTS SOME 31,000. MEMBERS.

2. MOST BRIEFS PLUGGED FRANCOPHONE QUEBEC'S ASPIRATIONS BUT TWO ETHNIC GROUPS DENOUNCED THE "TWO FOUNDING NATIONS" CONCEPT. ALMOST ALL CALLED FOR PROFOUND CHANGES IN THE CONFEDERATION BUT WITHOUT MUCH SPECIFICITY. FOR EXAMPLE, ONE CALLED FOR A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY TO "WORK OUT" A NEW CONSTITUTION ENSHRINING A BILL OF RIGHTS AND MINORITY LANGUAGE RIGHTS ACROSS COUNTRY BUT OFFERED NO PARTICULARS ABOUT SHAPE OF COUNTRY TO RESULT FROM THAT EXERCISE.

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3. MEETING AND TONE OF BRIEFS MARKED BY GOODWILL ON PART OF BOTH ANGLOPHONE AND FRANCOPHONE SPOKESMEN, WHICH MUST HAVE BEEN RELIEF TO MEMBERS OF TASK FORCE IF PROMINENT ARTICLES ABOUT ROUGH RECEPTION AND BOOING IN WINNEPEG ARE TO BE BELIEVED. (ONE QUEBEC MEMBER SAID SHE WAS "STILL SHAKING" FROM THE EXPERIENCE; THE OTHER DECLARED HIMSELF "SHOCKED.")

4. IN CONTRAST TO CIVILITY INSIDE, OUTSIDE QUEEN SLIZABETH  
HOTEL (WHERE SESSION TAKING PLACE) SOME 15 OR MORE MEMBERS OF THE  
MONTREAL BRANCH OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CANADA DEMONSTRATED  
AGAINST "BOTH THE FRAUD OF CANADIAN UNITY OF TRUDEAU AND THE  
FRAUD OF INDEPENDENCE OF LEVESQUE."

5. SESSIONS WILL CONTINUE FOR TWO MORE DAYS, INCLUDING "OPEN  
FORUM" FOR GENERAL PUBLIC TONIGHT.  
HARPER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NATIONALISM, GOVERNMENT REFORM, POLITICAL PARTIES, PUBLIC ATTITUDES  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 jan 1978  
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**Disposition Action:** n/a  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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